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THE CLOUDS

BY CLARA AUGUSTA.

Golden, yellow, and crimson,  
White as December snow,  
Tinged with the winter glory,  
Bathed in the summer glow.  
Beautiful, gorgeous vapors,  
Born of the floating mist,  
Formed in the hidden heaven,  
And by the sunshines kissed.  
Sailing on, ever onward,  
Whithersoever ye list.

Clouds of the thunder tempest,  
Clouds of the April morn;  
Clouds that hang over the June woods,  
White with blossoming thorn;  
Clouds of a golden sunrise;  
Clouds in the purple west,  
Folding the blue-bodiced hills up  
In a vermilion vest;  
How can I give my preference?  
Loving each soft dye the best.

White ships sailing the azure,  
Azure of heaven's deep;  
Graceful as form of woods  
Cast from the ocean's bough,  
Wild, erratic and changeful,  
Like beauty's face in eclipse,  
When tears and smiles hover jointly  
Over eyelids and lips.

Till you're like a bee in his honey,  
Lost in reveling sips.

There is a tender brightness,  
Love, and glory, and light,  
Dwelling in those fair wanderers  
Over the blue-arched night!

These are the heaven's gardens,  
Spanked by drowsy stars,  
Which peep in the silent evenings  
Down through the cloudy bars.

White Day and the Sun-like westward

In golden and crimson cars.

The Ace of Spades:

BY ALBERT W. AIKEN.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE "MARQUIS" ASTONISHED

Iola kept her appointment with the "Marquis," and was by him conducted to the boarding-house on Grand street.

Catterton had previously explained to the lady that kept the house the circumstances connected with the street-sweeper, and her rescue from the life of misery that she had led.

The "Marquis" considerably left a small sum of money in the hands of the landlady, Mrs. Wiggins, to be applied to fitting out Iola in dress more suited to her new station than the shabby one she wore.

The next morning Catterton called to take his adopted sister, to the shop which was to be her place of employment for the future. The "Marquis" had seen the foreman of the manufactory, and readily he agreed to receive Iola and teach her the business.

Catterton entered the parlor of the boarding-house, and the landlady, requesting him to be seated, went for Iola.

In a few minutes the street-sweeper entered the room. The "Marquis" looked at her in astonishment. The change in her appearance from the preceding day was wonderful.

She was attired in a neat calico dress, with little white cuffs on her wrists, and a dainty collar around her neck. Her superb tresses of yellow hair—that was of the tint of the wheat-field when the sheen of the sun rippled on it—was snugly bound up in a little net.

Her blue eyes danced for joy when she saw the "Marquis" and with both hands outstretched, and a bright smile of joy illuminating her face, she ran to him.

"Oh, I am so glad you have come!" she cried.

"Why, Iola!" he exclaimed, surveying the exquisitely formed little figure before him with admiration—the "Marquis" had a great liking for little women—"this is a change indeed!"

"Yes, don't I look nice?" she cried, in delight.

The innocence of the remark brought a smile to the lips of Catterton.

"Why you are a perfect little fairy!"

"Do you think so?" she exclaimed, joyfully.

"Yes, indeed I do," he replied.

"I am so glad that I please, you," she answered.

The cold, callous "Marquis"—the man of the world, whose boyhood had been one long struggle with misery, whose majority had been reached in a gaming-hell, whose school had been the streets, and whose master had been dire necessity—felt a peculiar sensation creep over him, as he looked upon the girl whom he had rescued from that life, the living of which is misery and the end is shame alone. The sensation was new to him—he had never felt any thing like it before.



THE ACE OF SPADES: THERE, IN A DEAD SWOON UPON THE FLOOR OF THE CLOSET, LAY THE OLD MAN, WHITEHEAD, THE SECRETARY.

"Isn't Miss Troy some relative of Mr. Tremaine?"

"Yes, sir; niece. She just's come from a boarding school at Troy, sir; been there ever since she was a child. I've heard, sir," the coachman had the natural desire to tell all he knew about the family he lived in, "that she is an orphan without any folks but Mr. Tremaine, and that he's always taken care of her. And I must say, he seems as fond of her as if she was his own child."

"Tremaine's a good man," said the "Marquis."

"That he is, sir!" emphatically replied the coachman.

"Those are fine horses. Good-day."

"Good-day, sir."

And the "Marquis," having found out all he wanted, strolled leisurely up the street, admiring the pretty women that are always so plentiful on Broadway. But mentally he compared them to Iola, and the comparison was decidedly to her advantage.

The coachman looked after the elegant figure of the "Marquis."

"Now, he's a gent, he is, and a judge of horseflesh, too." The "Marquis" had made a favorable impression upon the man that he had been pumping for information.

"So, ho!" mused the "Marquis," as he strolled along, "I think that little bit of work would reflect credit upon any member of the detective force. It is Loyal Tremaine, as I thought, and the girl too. The name, Essie, confirms it. That was the name, Troy? that's simple enough. What better last name could he give the girl than the town where he sent her to be brought up? For of course he did send her there. As fond of her as if she was his own child, and no wonder."

Then the "Marquis" noticed how beautiful the hair of the young girl was, how fine and how like silk its softness. And, looking down into the fresh, young face, he began to think that a fair young girl of seventeen was about as pretty an object as could be found in the wide, wide world.

"You are willing to be a slave, then?" he asked. "Yes, your slave," she answered, quickly, "but not any one else's." "Oh, I shan't resign you to any one!" he replied; "but come, I must take you to your future work-shop."

"As old as that!" he said. "Why, even dressed as you are now, I should not have taken you to be over fifteen at the most. I thought you were a child."

"Yes, but I am not," she answered, quickly; "I am quite a woman."

It was evident that Iola had some strong reason for wishing Catterton to consider her something else than a child.

"Yes, quite a woman," he replied, and during this short conversation he had been holding both her hands in his, as she had given them in her joy when she entered.

"Well, Iola," he said, releasing her hands, "are you comfortable here?"

"Oh, yes, real comfortable," she answered, "the lady is so kind."

"Why, Iola," said Catterton, seating himself in a rocking-chair, "I never saw such a change in any one in my life, as in you."

"Yes," she said, bringing a little stool out of a corner and sitting down beside the "Marquis," her chin resting on the arm of the rocking-chair, and her full blue eyes gazing brightly into his face.

"You have not only changed in dress but your whole nature seems changed," he said, wondering at the same time, as he looked into her face, why he had never noticed what pretty eyes she had before.

"I am free now," she answered, "before I was a slave. Now I am happy, then I was wretched. A slave you know is very rarely happy."

"Yes, but you are not free now," the "Marquis" said, gravely.

Iola looked up astonished.

For a moment the girl looked puzzled; then, suddenly comprehending his meaning, she laughed gayly, and seizing his hand, placed it upon her head.

"Yes, I am a slave, and you are my terrible master. See, I acknowledge it!" Then seizing the other hand in her little fingers she carried it to her lips and imprinted two little kisses upon it. The touch of the little red lips thrilled through the "Marquis," and sent the blood leaping through his veins.

The "Marquis" was puzzled; he could not account for the strange feelings that agitated him.

Iola, still holding his hand tight in her little palms, was looking up into his face with the same adoration that the Hindoo worships the carved god, the symbol of his faith.

"It is my man, sure!" he said, decidedly,

as the two entered the store. "But is it the girl?" Ah! that's what I've got to find out. If she ain't living, and with this man, I'm done for."

The "Marquis" thought for a moment.

"She looks enough like the mother to be the child. I'm sure it's Tremaine. He hasn't altered much in sixteen years—grown a little stouter and a little fuller in the face, but not materially changed."

"How can I find out?" he mused. "I have it! I'll pump the driver. What was the name of the girl? Oh! I remember."

Then the "Marquis" advanced to the side of the carriage. The driver had descended from the box and was standing by the horses.

"A splendid team you've got there, my friend," said Catterton, in his smoothest voice.

The driver turned and favored the "Marquis" with a searching gaze; but beholding a handsome young fellow, evidently by his dress—that oft deceptive sign—a gentleman, he replied, civilly:

"Yes, sir, they're a fine team."

"Mr. Tremaine's, ain't they?"

"Yes, sir."

"I thought so."

"Nice team, sir!"

"Yes, sir, they're a fine team."

"And with these strange thoughts in his mind, the "Marquis" strolled up Broadway.

CHAPTER XV.

A WOMAN'S LOVE

LOYAL TREMAINE, after his interview with his son, which had been so unsatisfactory, with a heavy heart proceeded up-stairs and entered his library.

The servant answered Tremaine's tap on the bell.

"Tell Miss Troy that I would like to see her in the library. You will find her in her room, probably," he said.

The servant left the apartment, and Loyal Tremaine was alone with his gloomy thoughts.

"This is a terrible retribution," he muttered, as the memory of the past came back to him. "This is a justice for me, indeed. I am rightly punished for the old sin."

The rich man closed his eyes with a deep sigh as if to shut out the memory of the past. Vain hope! for closing the eyes, simply, does not bring forgetfulness.

Back to the mind of Loyal Tremaine came vividly the memory of bygone days. He saw again the face of Christine, the woman he had loved so well that to obtain her he had sinned. The woman who had loved him so well that she had dared all the scorn and contempt of the world for that love—that guilty love that had brought the lightning-stroke of an outraged Heaven down upon her sinful head; that guilty love, that now, after the lapse of sixteen years, had brought a terrible visitation upon the man that had urged the woman to sin, as a punishment for his crime.

"The mills of the gods grind slow, but they grind exceeding fine!" No one in this world escapes from the consequences of evil deeds. Years may pass, but in the end retribution will come; not openly, perhaps, in the face of all the world, but silently and secretly. The poison rankling in the veins

inflicts as much pain as the blow of the bludgeon, though one be secret and the other visible to all. Let not mortal think that the dread, unwritten laws of Heaven and of Nature can be broken without punishment falling upon the guilty head of the evil-doer. The punishment may not be apparent except to himself, except to his own nature. He suffers doubly, who suffers silently and alone.

For the first time in his life, Loyal Tremaine understood the feelings which must have seized upon the heart of the young sailor, Walter Averill, when he came back from battling with the tempest and the roaring wild sea waves and found that his house was desolate; that his household gods—his wife's faith and purity—had fled on the sa-ble wings of night, and left behind naught but despair and desolation.

The steel shaft of remorse was in the soul of Tremaine for his early crime. His own anguish made him understand the anguish that he had caused another to suffer.

For sixteen years Loyal Tremaine had lived in the fear that Walter Averill, the sailor-husband, the man that he had so greatly wronged, would some day appear suddenly before him, denounce him as his wronger, and demand justice.

The demand had been made, not by the voice of the wronged husband, but from the lips of Tremaine's own son, the demand.

What were the pangs that all the justice of earth could cause, to the hell now raging in the breast of the father when he thought of the life-blight that perforce he must bring upon his only son, and upon the girl, too, whom he loved with all a father's affection?

"Ebbie alone can avert the evil," he murmured; "will she do it? or is this passion—this love?"—the fatal strength of which he knew full well—"so strongly fixed in her heart that she can not give it up?" This fatal love which must drag her and Oswald to the depths of utter despair.

A few minutes would answer the question and solve the riddle.

Timidly Ebbie entered the room, still blushing, red as a red, red rose, as she thought of the discovery in the parlor.

"Sit down, Ebbie," said Tremaine, kindly.

Ebbie took fresh courage at the kindness of his manner. Why should he, who had always treated her as a beloved daughter, be angry if she loved his son—his son, who resembled his father so much?

"Ebbie," Tremaine spoke gently, "my son tells me that he loves you; he has also told you so, has he not?"

"Yes, sir," murmured the girl. "He has asked you to be his wife?"

"Yes, sir," Ebbie began to hope that the course of her true love was destined to run smooth. "You have accepted his love and consented to be his wife?"

"Yes, sir, I do!"

"Oh!"

The single exclamation told Ebbie that the smooth water was past and that the bark of love was on dangerous seas, hiding many an angry, death-dealing rock; the breakers were in sight, and the white foam-caps struck terror to the heart of the girl.

"Ebbie, examine well your own heart!" cried Tremaine, in great agitation; "are you sure you love my son? Remember that the whole happiness of your life may depend upon your knowing the truth. You are but a child in years—have mingled very little with the world. There may be a hundred in the future that you are fated to see that you will like better than you do Oswald. Whose natures may be a thousand times more suited to your own, than his can ever be. All your future life may depend now upon your decision in this one little matter. You may fancy that you love Oswald. He is the first young man that you have been intimate with. You think you love him, but be careful and do not mistake friendship for love, or you will bitterly repent it hereafter. Take time, Ebbie, do not answer hastily."

Tremaine was but wasting breath.

"A man convinced against his will is of his own opinion still," says a trite old adage, and unlike many other old sayings it is extremely true. Attempt all impossible things, but do not attempt to convince a young girl that she does not love the man that she has chosen for the master of her heart. Argument only strengthens her in her belief. Use force, she flies to his arms, and like the engineer you are "hoist by your own petard."

Ebbie was as fully convinced that she loved Oswald as she was that she was living and breathing.

"Oh, uncle!" she answered, "I am sure I love Oswald, and that I shall never love any one else."

A similar remark has been made in like cases by a hundred girls, who afterward didn't marry the loved one and did marry some one else. But as a noted character of fiction has remarked, "Women are so devilish unreliable!"

Ebbie saw plainly that there was some ob-

stacle in her path to happiness, but what that obstacle was she could not guess.

"Ebbie, this is a terrible blow to me!" exclaimed Tremaine, and the expression of pain upon his features showed that he spoke the truth.

"Why, uncle, do you object to my loving Oswald?" asked Ebbie, trembling.

"Yes, yes!" he answered.

"I know I am poor," murmured Ebbie, and tears filled the soft, blue eyes despite her efforts to keep them back; for Ebbie was a brave little girl, and did not often give way to tears.

"Poor!" cried Tremaine, "tis the cry of the world! Poverty is not a crime, though the dull-headed doots that have sold themselves body and soul for glittering dross would make it so. Ebbie, at this moment I would give up all I have in the world, and change places with the poorest workman in New York, if with his poverty I could also buy his honest conscience."

"Why, then, uncle, do you object to my being Oswald's wife?" Ebbie asked, in astonishment at the unusual vehemence of her uncle's manner.

"Ebbie, I do not wish to tell you why I object; but I do object. And I ask you to give my son back his promise to be your husband, and to forever crush this love from your heart."

Ebbie for a moment was silent, busy in thought.

"Why don't you answer, Ebbie?" exclaimed Tremaine, impatiently; "will you do as I wish?"

"It is so hard to answer you, uncle," Ebbie replied. "You have always been so good to me, so kind. I have never known any friend in this world but you. You have been father, mother, all to me. You have given me my existence, for your bounty has provided the means by which I live. You have a right to that life. I can not deny it, uncle, and you exert that right; for if I give up Oswald, I give up all that makes my life happy." The tone of the girl was mournful indeed.

"You will give him up then?" cried Tremaine, hastily.

"If you command me to do so, uncle, I will."

"But I do not command!" exclaimed Tremaine, in despair. "I can not command. I merely ask it!"

Ebbie opened her blue eyes wide in astonishment.

"You do not command it?" she said, in amazement.

"No; no; I have promised that I will not force your will in this matter," replied Tremaine, fearing that, after all, his efforts were useless.

"Then you only ask me?" and the blue eyes brightened; "if I can not do it, you will not be angry with me?"

"No, no, child!" responded Tremaine, sadly. "I can not be angry with you. Whatever course you take, I believe it is destined by fate. You are but a passive agent in my punishment."

Ebbie could not understand the meaning of her uncle's strange words.

"Decide—will you yield to my request?" Tremaine's voice was full of entreaty.

"Uncle, I can not," and Ebbie threw herself on her knees by Tremaine's chair, and gently laid her hands upon his arm, as if in supplication.

"It is fate," murmured Tremaine, looking into the earnest face raised in entreaty. "Poor child, I can not blame you."

"Oh, uncle," she cried, "I do not wish to give you pain; perhaps Oswald does not love as well as I. If he wishes me to retract my promise, I will do so, even if it should break my heart."

As a drowning man clutches at straws, Tremaine seized upon this promise.

The bell summoned the servant.

"Tell Oswald that I wish to see him."

The servant retired with the message.

"Vain hope!" Tremaine muttered to himself; "he will never release her, and the fatal secret must be told."

CHAPTER XVI.

THE FATAL SECRET.

In a few minutes after the departure of the servant with the message, Oswald entered the parlor library.

"You sent for me, father?" he asked.

Ebbie had risen to her feet, and stood by the side of Tremaine's chair.

"Yes, Oswald," answered the father, "I did send for you; I have spoken with Ebbie, and she is willing to return you your promise."

"What?" cried Oswald in amazement, while the red blood flushed into his temples; "do I hear rightly? Ebbie, speak!" he demanded. "Do you wish me to return you your promise? do you wish me to release you?"

"No, Oswald," Ebbie answered, "I do not wish it."

"What, then, father, do you mean?" cried Oswald, impetuously.

"Ebbie is willing to give you a chance to think the matter over. You have both acted hastily. Possibly to-morrow you will change your mind."

"Never, father!" cried the young man, in heat.

"Oswald, I have promised your father that if you wish it, I will return you your promise," said Ebbie, looking with anxious eyes into her lover's face; but the glow of joy that she saw there, caused by her

words, convinced her that the promise would not be returned.

"Father, your efforts are useless; I will never ask Ebbie to release me, and never will I release her. Ebbie, you are my promised wife, and come good or bad, I shall hold you to your promise."

Ebbie did not answer with her tongue, but with her eyes, she thanked Oswald for the words that he had uttered.

Tremaine inwardly groaned in agony of spirit, though outwardly, save in the white lips and deathly pallor of his visage, he gave no sign of emotion.

"Oswald and Ebbie, you will not be warned!" he cried; "you will not heed my voice, but blindly rush to despair."

"Father, I can not understand the meaning of your words," answered Oswald; "why you should be so strongly opposed to my wedding Ebbie, I know not; but until you do give me a reason for that opposition, I will never willingly resign her."

"Ebbie," cried Tremaine in despair, "for the last time I implore you to yield to my wishes and break off this unhappy engagement."

"Oh, uncle!" and Ebbie again knelt by Tremaine's chair and gazed up into his face, pleadingly, "do not ask me to break my word or to crush the love that is in my heart! In every thing else, uncle, I will do as you wish—will gladly obey you, and even now—if Oswald will but ask it—for your sake, I will give him back his word, though the act make me wretched hereafter."

"Ebbie, I will never ask it!" cried the son, hastily.

"You will know the truth, then!" exclaimed Tremaine, in bitterness of spirit; "you insist upon learning the fatal truth that so vainly I have striven to keep from you."

"Why, father, what do you mean?" asked Oswald, in amazement, while a terrible apprehension of danger filled his heart.

"Uncle, do explain!" pleaded Ebbie, while the same feeling of coming danger that hung over Oswald's spirit, also laid its chilly fingers upon her.

"I have tried to keep you from loving each other, because your marriage is impossible!" said Tremaine, slowly and in agony.

"Oh! how the sin of the past was being avenged. The poisoned chalice was at his lips, placed there by his own hands; sup it he must.

"Impossible!" cried Oswald.

"Impossible!" repeated Ebbie.

"Father, what can you mean?" exclaimed the son, who felt as if he was in a terrible dream, the waking from which would be fearful.

"Yes, it is impossible!" repeated the father.

"Why impossible?"

Both Oswald and Ebbie looked at Tremaine, with the same expression upon their faces that prisoners being tried for their lives might have while gazing at the judge who held in his hands their fate.

"Why—" and the anguish of the father was terrible, indeed. "Heaven forgive me—I must speak the truth even though it kills!" Oswald and Ebbie, your marriage is impossible, for you are brother and sister! Ebbie, you are my child!"

The fatal—fatal truth came upon the lovers with crushing force.

Oswald receded back, and but for the friendly support of a chair would have fallen, while Ebbie, still kneeling by the chair of her uncle, looked into his face with a stony glare as though the awful words had struck her into marble.

Tremaine could not bear the fixed look of the blue eyes that were wont to be so soft and loving in their gaze. Hastily he rose from his chair, and raising Ebbie from her knees, folded her to his heart.

"Ebbie!" he exclaimed, in anguish, "my poor child, can you forgive me? I have tried to be a father to you, a father in all but the name, and now, because I am your father, I have blighted all your life. My poor child, can you forgive me?"

Ebbie answered not. Her head was in a whirl. Strange sounds were in her ears; the terrible truth had stunned her.

"Ebbie," cried the father, anxiously, finding that she did not answer, "why do you not speak? Call me father, and tell me that you forgive me, or I shall go mad!"

With a weary air, Ebbie raised her head, passed her hand slowly across her forehead, as though she had just awakened from a frightful dream and was recalling her scattered and bewildered senses.

"Father—Oswald," she murmured, and then with a sigh she fainted, and but for the arms of Tremaine, would have fallen to the floor.

"Ring the bell, Oswald, quick! she has fainted!" cried the father, in haste.

Like one in a maze, Oswald staggered rather than walked to the table, and touched the bell.

"Oh! can I ever be forgiven for this misery?" murmured Tremaine in anguish, as he looked upon the haggard features of his son and then upon the pale face of the fainting girl that he held in his arms.

The servant entered in answer to the bell.

"Send Mrs. Harris" (the housekeeper of the Tremaine mansion) "here at once. Tell her that Miss Troy has fainted; quick!"

With eager haste, the servant obeyed the order. In a few minutes, that seemed hours to the anxious father, the servant returned with Mrs. Harris.

Tremaine paused for a moment; the memory of the past was painful, indeed.

"We had better take her to her room, Mr. Tremaine," said the housekeeper, her experienced eye quickly perceiving that Ebbie's faint was a severe one.

"Wait, Oswald, I will return in a moment," said Tremaine, and then with his own hands he bore the fainting girl to her room—which was upon the same floor as the library—and laid her upon the bed.

"Do not leave her, Mrs. Harris," he said, "and if you think that there is danger, send for Doctor Dornon at once." Then Tremaine, leaving the helpless child in the care of the housekeeper, returned to the library, where he found Oswald sitting motionless by the table in exactly the same position that he had left him in.

The shock of the awful disclosure had stunned the young man. He had grown five years older in looks in the few minutes that had elapsed since the knowledge of the fatal secret had thrown such a cloud upon his brain.

Tremaine carefully closed the door behind him. He did not wish witnesses to the interview that was about to take place.

The father was grieved beyond expression as he beheld the change that had taken place in his son's face; in that face which an hour before had been so full of life, of hope, of joy; that face that had so proudly bid defiance to the world. Now, the cloud of black despair had settled down upon it. The hope, the joy was gone, and in their place desolation.

"Oswald, my son!" cried Tremaine.

"Father," replied Oswald, slowly, raising his head to meet his father's gaze, as though he had lost all in the world that made life dear.

"Oswald, can you forgive me; that I have so long kept this secret from you and then blindly laid in your path the snare that has made wretched your life?"

"Do not speak of it, father; it is my unhappy fortune. You warned me, but I was blind and reckless. I am justly punished for not heeding your words. But, father, I have loved Ebbie, from the moment that she first entered this house. It is my fate to be wretched." The tone of Oswald was one of settled despair.

"Oswald," said Tremaine, sadly, "words I know, can not comfort you, yet I owe you an explanation in regard to Ebbie. It is but right that you should know her history; know also of my sin."

"Father, I do not ask this confidence," said Oswald.

"It is yours by right," answered Tremaine. "The consequences of my fault have not only fallen upon my head but upon yours also; therefore, listen to me."

Tremaine seated himself, and after a moment's pause, as if to collect his thoughts, began:

"Some eighteen years ago I had occasion to visit the town of New Bedford. While there, I became acquainted with a young and pretty girl, the wife of a sailor. He was the captain of a whale-ship, and at that time he was absent on a cruise. He was not expected to return for three years. This lady

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"Don't be in a hurry, Paul. Tell me all about Castleton. If you will not alight, I will stand here while you talk."

Thus importuned, Paul Gaylord opened his budget of news, and in the midst of his talk he was interrupted by a shrill whistle from his single auditor. The next instant two men sprung from the timber, and while one proceeded to drag him from the saddle the other seized the bridle.

Ira Freeman drew a revolver and leveled it at his head.

"Aha! so you have turned highwayman," said Paul. "Your crime in Castleton makes you a worthy successor to Duval and Jonathan Wilde."

"I am not a highwayman, Paul Gaylord. Not a cent of your money shall be touched. John, is he securely bound?"

"Yes."

"I'll take care of the horse. Pick him up, boys, and let us finish the work as soon as possible."

The ruffians raised Paul Gaylord and carried him away, while Freeman followed with the horse. In a short time they paused, and placed the young man on the railroad track. Then their diabolical intention flashed upon him.

"What is this for, Ira Freeman?" he demanded, turning his eyes toward the hunted violator of the law. "I never harmed you. I was one of the last to believe you guilty."

"Truer words were never spoken, Paul Gaylord; but, notwithstanding it, you must die. I scruple not to tell the reason now. For months I have been a visitor at your uncle's house, and I have been paying attention to your fair cousin."

Paul shuddered at the danger of his cousin; but not at his own. "I have her almost in my power, and your arrival would upset the whole affair. You would tell her about the crime I committed in Castleton, and, instead of loving, she would loathe me."

"Yes, and the very ground you tread on. You are acting for your self-interest. Were I to reach my relative, she should know all."

"In view of these facts, you must die. We could put a bullet through your head, but that would look like murder. Therefore, we will bind you upon the track, and when the train has completed my work, we will return and carry away the ropes."

A few minutes' work sufficed to bind Paul securely to the track, and after the last words were spoken, a gag was placed in his mouth to prevent his cries procuring him assistance.

With a triumphant heart Ira Freeman strode away. Suddenly he paused.

"Strike a light, Mike," said Freeman. "The accursed stars do not give light enough to let a fellow see the hands on your watch."

The man called Mike lit a match and Freeman looked at his chronometer.

"Just nine o'clock. In twenty minutes the train will come crashing along here, and then all will be over. Paul Gaylord, do you hear what I say?" he called to his victim. "It is nine o'clock. You have twenty minutes to live. It strikes me that you will have to do some lively praying. Good-by!"

Then they walked away, and left the brave fellow to his fate.

The night was beautiful and pleasant, and as the trio walked toward the dwelling of Mr. Frost, which was but a mile distant from the track, they conversed about their damming deed.

Suddenly they heard a noise to their right, and they paused. They listened; but the noise was not repeated.

"Come on, boys," said Freeman, at last. "I guess it was a fox or some other night animal frightened from its repast. Now, right yonder we separate. You can go down to your cabin and I will go to Frost's. When two hours have elapsed you will meet me at the riven oak. Do you hear?"

"I reckon we ain't deaf," answered one of the pair. "We will meet you there. Come, Mike, let's get to our shanty as quick as possible; for I am as hungry as a famished wolf!"

Alone Ira Freeman entered the home of the Frosts. He found husband and wife seated before the fireplace.

"Come, sit down, Mr. Gillott," said Mrs. Frost. "Eulalie ran over to Mr. Parton's a short time ago, and it is near time for her to return. Do not go, but remain till Eulalie returns. Our nephew will be with us directly. Have you ever seen him?"

"I have never had that pleasure," said the visitor, as his thoughts reverted to the looked-for nephew bound to the track. "I shall be pleased to see him. I will remain till Eulalie returns."

He seated himself between the old couple, and continued the conversation.

The minutes rolled by; but Eulalie did not come. Where was she?

Bending over the form of Paul Gaylord, was a woman—one whose golden ringlets glistened in the starlight as they fell over her shoulders. She tugged at the ropes, till blood dripped from the ends of the daintiest fingers, and her strength was nearly exhausted.

"It is no use to kill yourself, Eulalie," said Paul. "Stand off and let me die. The train is undoubtedly behind time, and, at any moment, it is liable to come around the curve. I am not afraid to die, Eulalie, sweet cousin. It will soon be over. One revolution of the wheels, and my spirit will have flown to the God who gave it me."

Oh! I am so glad that you know the black heart that beats in the breast of Ira Freeman! Yes, Eulalie, let me die! Give me your hand, and go to your home and denounce the villain."

"I will not go, Paul," said the girl, determinedly. "I shall work till the train comes, and then if you are not released, why—why—I'll die with him!" she finished, inaudibly.

Again she tugged at the ropes that bound her cousin to the wood and iron, but not a single knot could she undo. Unfortunately Paul did not possess a knife or other sharp instrument.

Suddenly Eulalie paused.

"Paul, have you a match about your person?"

"Yes, Eulalie, in my right vest-pocket."

The brave girl found it.

Leaving his cousin, she gathered a lot of leaves, which she placed on the track some distance from him, toward the curve. Then upon the leaves she placed dry twigs, gathered from beneath the boughs. Oh, how she toiled to increase the heap! Every moment was precious, and she did not let it tilt away in idleness.

Suddenly the rumbling of the train smote upon her ears. She started as though struck by a bullet, and then stooped by the great heap. She applied the lighted match to the dry leaves, and flames shot upward and crackled among the twigs. Higher and brighter grew the flames, and Eulalie's brave little heart beat fast with excitement. Presently the train rounded the curve, and the brilliant headlight dazzled the eyes of the girl.

Her heart now beat with fear, for the train came thundering on. Would it dash through the fire and scatter the brands over Paul, preparatory to grinding him to death beneath its iron wheels? The thought was crazing, and stepping to Paul's side she knelt and clasped his hands.

Higher and higher shot the flames, and on, on thundered the train. Eulalie gave herself up for lost, and closed her eyes.

Suddenly the bell of the locomotive commenced to clang. The noise reached Eulalie's heart, and she raised her head. Her heart leaped with hope, for the glaring headlight came on slower.

Presently she saw a bearded face at the fire, and a minute later a hand clutched her arm.

"What does this fire mean, miss? Who made it?"

"I, sir, to save a life," replied Eulalie. "A villain bound my cousin, here, to the track. I could not free him, so I built a fire on the track, hoping to stop your train."

The engineer stooped, and Paul Gaylord stood erect, a free man!

"Bound you to the track, eh? Who is so devilish? I had a notion to run right through the fire; but I got a glimpse of this little girl's white skirt."

Paul told the name of the author of his trouble.

"There's a sheriff on my train after a fellow what run away from the East. I'll let my engine that he's the fellow. By George! young man, it's lucky for you that we're behind time."

Accordingly he dashed ahead, made himself agreeable, and was listened to by Clara with much apparent interest.

He had a capital way of relating the many adventures and hair-breadth escapes through which he said he had passed during his travels.

As to Lieutenant Lyon, modest to a fault, he would only stand and admire the young lady at a distance, supremely happy when, at odd moments, he caught the flash of her brown eyes upon him, sometimes even when Maxon was in the very thick of his daring adventures.

Clara had noticed that Maxon never failed to make himself the hero of these adventures, and always the *victor* of his battles. Paul Gaylord remained at his uncle's until the second of March, this very year, when he and Eulalie departed for the East.

A fortnight since the following appeared in an eastern paper:

"MARRIED: April 20th, by Rev. R. H. Chalmers, Mr. Paul Gaylord to Miss Eulalie Frost.

Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one."

Should Paul not love his little wife, reader?

He does.

## A LAUGHING TRIO!

In its Humorous Department the SATURDAY JOURNAL is distinguished above any popular paper. The exclusive possession of such wits and drollerists as

Beat Time,

Washington Whitehorn,

And Joe Jot, Jr.,

gives to each and every issue of the Journal elements of rare and peculiar interest. Their wit is not that counterfeited presentation which seeks by distorted orthography to hide its want of merit; but is the real thing, making even the soberest of soberbines give way to smiles. If it is true that a real humorist is a public benefactor," then the SATURDAY JOURNAL is thrice blessed, for three more agreeable and laughable companions than those named it is not possible to find in American journalism.

OUR GALAXY OF POETS!

Comprises many favorite names, viz: Alice and Phoebe Cary; Clara Augusta; A. W. Bellaw; J. G. Manly, Jr.; the sparkling Rose Raymond; Mrs. Henry C. Peters, etc., etc. We have fled for early use some "gems of purest ray serene" from these hands.

## OH! I MUST SEE.

A noble ship is anchored in the bay; She sails to-morrow by the break of day; Like bounding dolphin on the wave she rides, The wavelts rippling on her rounded sides.

Like some great bird of ocean flying free, She too will spread her pinions o'er the sea; Ah! what a world of pleasant thoughts and things For those who walk beneath her snowy wings!

Oh! I must see the land where palm-trees grow.

The deserts where the dry siroccos blow;

The summer isles whose skies do never weep,

Where fearless divers plunge beneath the deep.

Oh! I must see the mermaids—heat them sing,

Where coral caves with siren music ring;

Behold the turbaned Turk, the Chinaman,

The ancient river Nile, and far Japan.

Oh! I must see the icebergs gleaming bright,

Where all the year is but one day and night;

The reindeer coursing over fields of snow,

By seas where the great whale and walrus go.

Oh! I must see the bread-fruit on its tree;

And all the bright-winged birds uncaged and free;

The tiger croching in the jungle's dell;

The lordly lion and the soft gazelle.

Oh! I must see the ocean in that hour

When landsmen quail before its stormy power;

And while upon the mountain waves we ride,

Feel in my heart the sailor's noble pride.

Oh! vain, my mother! Do not bid me stay;

A spirit calls me, and I must away;

There is an eager longing in my soul.

To see this lovely earth from pole to pole,

Weep not, oh mother! I may not remain;

Weep not, sweet sister! I will come again.

Hark! 'tis the ocean ringing in my ears;

I must obey its summons spite your tears.

## Run Into.

### A SEA SKETCH.

BY ROGER STARBUCK.

COLONEL LEFFERTS and his daughter Clara, Americans, having visited some relatives in England, were now bound home to New York, aboard the ship Manton—a beautiful clipper of the "Star" line.

Among the passengers, the colonel had recognized and introduced to his daughter two acquaintances: one a handsome, pompous, self-sufficient young man, named Henry Maxon, the other a plain, quiet, sun-browned naval officer of twenty-five, Lieutenant Lyon.

Both men were anxious to improve their acquaintance with Clara, one of the most attractive of her sex.

About the average height of woman, her form was lithe and willowy; her step as light as an antelope's, her voice like rippling music. The expression of her face with its clear complexion, regular features and soft, dark-brown eyes, was truly beautiful.

Her manner was a mixture of naïveté and gentle dignity; she was at all times full of life, without being either noisy or silly.

Henry Maxon, accustomed to female society, in which he had the reputation of being a favorite, made up his mind to win the girl. She was just the woman he wanted; would show off to advantage with her queenly bearing, her accomplishments, and lively manner—would make other men stare, admire and envy.

Henry Maxon, the naval officer, was the most attractive of the two. He had a capital way of relating the many adventures and hair-breadth escapes through which he said he had passed during his travels.

As to Lieutenant Lyon, modest to a fault, he would only stand and admire the young lady at a distance, supremely happy when, at odd moments, he caught the flash of her brown eyes upon him, sometimes even when Maxon was in the very thick of his daring adventures.

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Should Paul not love his little wife, reader?

He does.

There must be a lack of energy; otherwise he would not let Maxon gain her ear so constantly, in preference to himself.

Then came the thought that perhaps Lyon did not find her attractive enough to take the trouble.

This piqued her, while it excited still more her interest in the young officer.

The latter, one morning while Maxon was relating an adventure, had been scrutinizing the sky to windward with a keen glance.

"We are going to have a storm; is it not so?" remarked Henry, turning to Lyon.

The officer, who was only a few paces distant, answered in the affirmative.

"I thought so," said Maxon to Clara.

"I know something of the sea myself, having done much boating and yachting. Once I saved a ship and passengers, while captain and crew were drunk, by taking the wheel myself. I always was pretty cool in danger, you know. On another occasion, by expert swimming—I am an excellent swimmer, as your father, who has seen me at bathing places, can vouch for—I saved a lady passenger, who had fallen overboard. Here comes the storm!" he suddenly added, pointing away toward white water to windward, tossed up beneath a mass of dark, ad-

vancing clouds. "I do not think it will be very heavy," he continued, turning to Lyon.

"You are mistaken, sir; we are to have a heavy gale."

"What would you do, in case I should fall overboard?" remarked Clara, half playfully, to Maxon. "You would not, probably, deem me worth saving."

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J. G. TURNER.—We do not republish our serials in book-form. All who wish to read the brilliant and powerful productions which will follow in rapid succession through our columns will find them only in their serial form in the SATURDAY JOURNAL.

Who is the author known as "Lenox Wylder"? asks a very solicitous friend. He is—Lenox Wylder—a very captivating romancer, who writes exclusively for the SATURDAY JOURNAL. Another story from his vivacious pen is already in hand and will be given in due time.

J. G. M., Jr., Montreal, thanks us for giving so fine a paper, saying: "Your paper is even a novelty in excellence and variety of matter, the high standing of its writers, the absorbing interest of its serials, and last but not least, in the low price at which it is sold. I wish you eminent success." J. G. M. is a man of discrimination and good taste!

"EVERY TIME" can hardly hope to vie with our "BEAT TIME." We don't want to engage him.

Can not use "ARABIANA"? It is too long for a single issue and a sketch or story of its nature should not be "continued." The MS. is held subject to the author's orders.

The poem "GOLDEN COUNTRY" is hardly perfect enough as a poem to be put in print. The sentiment is good and some lines are very well expressed.

Poems "A VAGABOND EVENING" and "A TANZ HUNTER" are much too perfect for print. The writer has yet much to learn both of the rules of versification and of the constituents of a good poetic expression. MS. returned.

"THE ORONOCO" is well enough as a paper on a specific theme but is rather out of place in a popular paper. Give it to some magazine.

"HEAVY HAND" is good as a certain kind of sensational ten-cent novel. It is not devoid of merit but is too coarse and crude for any of our publications. We demand, in all cases, literary as well as dramatic excellence in novels for the paper or for any of our popular series of cheap publications.

MS. "HEROISM AND ITS REWARD" unavailable. No stamps for return, and MS. destroyed.

The poem "SUNSHINE OF LIFE" is good enough for an after-dinner smile. It will assist digestion by producing an expansion of the buttons. We quote, verbatim:

The flowers of the earth, they too are dark  
In beauty, when days are gloomy;  
But sunshine change a blooming spark—  
Or brightness, too show a growing fidelity.

At labor never from a sorrowing disgust,  
Nor from a long life's pain about you self;  
But like the sunny boy, even in misery,  
By happy gathering—a sunshine life!

Industry is it look'd upon as a doom—  
It look'd upon—as companion of strife!  
Ah no! it's the smile, the comfort of a home,  
Industry the honorary sunshine of life.

Drive hatred an' deceit into oblivion,  
An' jealousy, the offspring of madness;  
Cherish meekness an' kindness—a blessin'  
Of life,—a sunshine of gladness!

## Foolscap Papers.

## Some Old Names.

A NAME, according to my dictionary, which is now completed from A to Absalom, and from Alpha to Omega, is a little huddle of letters, suggestive of a certain sound; although the bearer may not be very sound himself. There are names which follow me from the scenes of my childhood—for even I was once a little boy, and I am not old enough yet to be ashamed of it—names which are part of my memory, and which also are forever fixed in the annals of the little village where it was always my wish to be born, and where I was raised afterward. I like to reach over the side of the little yawl in which I am sailing o'er life's dark sea, and pick these names up as they float around me, and give myself up to reveries which make me feel almost as much pleased as if I was making money or making soap.

BOBBY CALDER.

This name brings before me an old Englishman, who was the keeper of a little old grocery, whose stock consisted of every thing which a cent could buy. Indeed, it was the general repository of all the odd coppers that fell, foully or fairly, into the fingers of us boys in the village. He was just the man to keep just such a store; clad in an apron always, which only prevented the dirt on his clothes from wearing off—an old hat, which probably at the time of William the Conqueror served its time as a coal-scuttle—a low pair of old shoes, which needed blacking, and a pair of socks that didn't, he seemed a perfect representative of those speckled sticks of candy in speckled

jars; speckled bunches of Chinese crackers in speckled boxes, and speckled every thing lying on speckled shelves. A bowl of bread and milk was the only fare for him, and his two old cats which occupied his bunk at night, and in the daytime, according to the traditions prevalent among us then, stood ready to pounce upon and scratch the eyes out of any little boy who got his fingers into the barrel where the sugar and the flies were kept. And when, by some great fortune, a boy would come into possession of the fabulous sum of five cents silver, (which was seldom) and he would go to old Bobby's to buy two cigars for a cent, with a handful of matches thrown in, and hand him the mystic coin to take the amount of his bill out, it made boy tremble to see old Bobby put it between his teeth and give it a bite to prove its metal, for every dollar was a hundred cents to him, and every cent was a dollar to us. It got abroad among us boys one day that Bobby was going to get a new hat, and the store was besieged all day by us to see the novelty, but if he ever got it, he was probably afraid or ashamed to wear it, and the last time I was there in the village, he was wearing the same old hat, apron, and shoes, although the apron gloried in one new string. I sat in his store an hour, and saw a new generation of boys come in, just as we used to go in, and buy the very same things we used to buy—in no case laying out more than two cents; and I saw, too, that it was well that there was no silver among those boys, for all of Bobby's teeth were gone, and the boys of the next generation who read this sketch will doubt if there ever was such a man.

## MRS. SMITH.

This name brings up from the past a lady who lived near us, and whose husband was addicted to drink.

Having no children, she took very kindly to my little sister and me, and every chance we could get, and even when we couldn't get a chance, we would run off over there, and each time we would get a large slice of bread and butter, with sugar on it. Think of it, sugar! Sugar is the dream of the child, and the disgust of a man—at present prices. When we would get home, we would find there was a bitter to every sweet; but here, though that time is far away, and on that name there came to be a stain of the world, this is one of the sweetest memories we have, and time nor stain can dispel it.

## JOE SACKWIND.

This name brings before me as warm-hearted and good-natured an old soul as ever was continually getting into debt, and other scrapes. The dust of many years whitened his hair, but there always lurked a merry twinkle in his eye, like a rat in a woodpile. Joe was never married, preferring rather to be a bachelor of the arts of the carpenter trade, than to be a bachelor of hearts.

He was once putting in a new water-wheel to a mill in the edge of the village, if it had any edge, when a hunter from the backwoods coming up, told him he had heard tell of that new fixin', and had walked five miles to see it, but he didn't think they could git up a wheel that'd beat that 'un out on Wild-Cat Creek, anyhow. Now, the new wheel was directly where the old one used to be, and of course there was a large and deep hole beneath it, but very shallow a little ways out, and pieces of wool were lying about on the top of the water, which was muddy and stationary, as the gates were down. Old Joe gave me a wink as I sat watching him at his work, and told greeny, to get a better view of it, he must get directly under the wheel. Rifle in hand, he stepped on the blocks which were lying in the shallow place, and then gave a jump to one which was lying in deep water, but which he thought was touching ground, and by an irresistible law of gravitation, went to the bottom with his ears wet. He crawled out, threatening to lick Joe, and as I ran off, I don't know whether he did, as Joe never would talk about it after that.

## WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

A good name will not infallibly shield us against detraction and calumny. The best persons are sometimes traduced. But it should afford us consolation to know, that these occasional injuries to the character of the virtuous, if undeserved, are generally temporary. Good men outlive the effects of the most ingenious slanders. But if there should be some exceptions to this rule, and we should be among them, we may be assured that the grave will not have been long closed over us, before our good names will experience a happy resurrection, and be held in "everlasting remembrance."

If by a course of well-doing we have gained a good name, let us be careful to preserve it. The wise man has said, "A good name is better than precious ointment"—and again, "better than riches." It is not only better for ourselves; it will be to our children a richer inheritance, than would be the millions bequeathed by a Gibrard or an Astor.

With such evidence of the value of a good name, it is to be regretted that there are so many who, like the young lady referred to, "don't care what people think of them." To whom is such a name more valuable than to a young woman? What is she without it? It is painful to think how many there are of this class of persons, who seem to place a higher estimate upon the "precious ointment" with which they perfume the air in which they move, than upon the odor of a good name.

## OLD LETTERS.

I had been sick, almost unto death—body and soul. The physical pain had caused me to yield up the expectation of life; the sorrows of my spirit had taken away the desire of it. Still I grew better, almost against my wish, until I could sit up an hour or two at a time. Then I began to feel a nervous desire for excitement—excitement greater than my books, my friends, the little world around could afford me. In this restless state, I one day happened to think of my letter-chest, and had it brought to my room and laid open beside me. Slow-

ly then, and carefully, I began to overlook each neatly arranged file. What a revelation! What dreams, what hopes, what joys, and alas, what sorrows! Was it true that I had once been a moving spirit in the scenes recorded here?—that I had loved so much, and been so loved as these long-hidden witnesses testified anew? Had my mother lavished such anxious tenderness upon me? Had my sister given me such abundant love and confidence? Had many friends flattered and caressed me in words of eloquent meaning? Had lovers praised my beauty and my virtues in such endearing terms?

How then had I become the wretched being that I was? The letters of a few later years told all!

In the two weeks given to convalescence, the reading of those neglected letters passed my whole life in review before me, and made me happier and more miserable by turns. But I had not yet lightened my heart of its burden of weariness, nor escaped from the demon of discontent. I said gloomily to myself, "Nothing like this past life can ever come to me again: let me forget my bygone happiness, that I may not hereafter desire its impossible return." Therefore, day by day, I laid these once-precious pages in the flames of the grate, and saw them become a mere heap of white ashes. Would that I could redeem myself from the consequences of my folly! The ashes of those perished letters lie upon my heart. I have deprived myself of every clue to the past; henceforth I can never return to its contemplation, for I have buried its joys in oblivion, by my own voluntary act. The dreary present, and hopeless future, are all that remain to me; and I suffer for the remorse of one who in some insane mood has slain his dearest friend, and awakened to inquire for him, but to be reproached with his untimely death.

## A GOOD NAME.

"I don't care what people think," said a young lady not long since, on being told that a certain act would be viewed with distaste by her friends. I was sorry to hear the remark, and especially from one whom I esteemed. Her character was at once depreciated in my estimation. I hold it as a general rule, that persons who are regardless of the good opinion of their fellow-men, are not likely to attain a very high position in society.

But in saying that we should desire the good opinion of others, I would not intimate that we should do any thing wrong to gain it. Nor do I consider it necessary. I believe the object may be most effectually secured by making it an invariable rule to do right, whatever some people may think; for, although we should not be indifferent with respect to our standing in the public estimation, a higher object is the *faithful discharge of duty*. It is gratifying, however, to know, that the more strictly we practice the right, the more certain are we to secure the public esteem. A virtuous deportment commands respect even from the bad, however disinclined they may be to follow our example or court our association.

A good name is something to be proud of. It is a just cause of gratitude as well as satisfaction, that we have been restrained from those habits and practices which disgrace and ruin so many characters. A good name increases our capacity for usefulness. One who does not enjoy the respect of the community has little influence for good. Usefulness is a source of happiness. There is much satisfaction in knowing that we have done good; and this satisfaction is consistent with a humble estimate of our own worth. The most conspicuous examples of usefulness—the greatest benefactors the world has known—have been found among the most "lowly in heart."

A good name will not infallibly shield us against detraction and calumny. The best persons are sometimes traduced. But it should afford us consolation to know, that these occasional injuries to the character of the virtuous, if undeserved, are generally temporary. Good men outlive the effects of the most ingenious slanders. But if there should be some exceptions to this rule, and we should be among them, we may be assured that the grave will not have been long closed over us, before our good names will experience a happy resurrection, and be held in "everlasting remembrance."

PERSEVERANCE.

PERSEVERANCE is a virtue much talked of, but little appreciated. What might be accomplished in the mental and moral world, as well as in the material one, if people would only put perseverance to the helm? Who is there who has not felt this in his or her experience?

How many times, when we are all alive to the beauty of good deeds, we yearn to perform them, we resolve that hereafter we will be more vigilant, more faithful in the performance of our duties; but the glow of our feelings dies out because the little virtue above mentioned is not practiced, and we fall back into our old way of acting on the impulse of the moment, and not according to our highest conviction of right.

How often we feel the ability to perform something with the talents given us, and we promise ourselves that we will rouse and try to make the most of our gifts! But the enthusiasm passes, and lack of time or energy prevents our carrying out our plans, and when we next review ourselves, we feel unmixed regret at our lack of perseverance.

BY ALICE CARY.

She took up life as easily  
As if it were not new—  
Reached for the sunshine on the grass,  
And dabbled in the dew:  
And grew acquainted with the rose,  
When Spring had trimmed her bower,  
As if she came to dwell with us,  
From out a world of flowers.

She only learned the names of things  
The brightest and most sweet,  
For ere she stayed here long enough  
The lesson to complete,

Death kissed her eyelids, and she fell  
Asleep without a fear,  
Trusting our love to keep her safe  
Till morn should reappear.

LITTLE LUCY.

BY ALICE CARY.

She took up life as easily  
As if it were not new—

Reached for the sunshine on the grass,  
And dabbled in the dew:

And grew acquainted with the rose,  
When Spring had trimmed her bower,  
As if she came to dwell with us,  
From out a world of flowers.

She though that an unseen hand  
The little birds were fed,  
And that her blind lamb tenderly  
Along his path was led.

She smiled at nightfall, and she smiled  
To see the storm astir:  
As if within her house  
No harm could come to her.

She only learned the names of things  
The brightest and most sweet,

For ere she stayed here long enough  
The lesson to complete,

Death kissed her eyelids, and she fell  
Asleep without a fear,  
Trusting our love to keep her safe  
Till morn should reappear.

BY AGILE PENNE.

On a bright afternoon in the month of April I sallied forth, intent upon visiting the Grand Bazaar in aid of "The Sheltering Arms," then being held in the Armory, of the Thirty-seventh regiment on Broadway.

Clothed in my best—a "pepper and salt" suit—with a half-white rose-bud—my especial favorite—in my button-hole, I went forth to see and be seen.

I took a Sixth avenue car and thus proceeded rapidly up-town.

In the same car was a lady, exquisitely dressed, and in face handsome in the extreme.

I devoted a considerable portion of my time to shy glances at my charming neighbor, and finally came to the conclusion that she was about as pretty a woman as I had ever looked upon.

Judge of my delight then on reaching

Thirty-seventh street to see her—like myself

rise to alight from the car. Then the thought flashed upon my mind—possibly she, too, was going to the Bazaar.

My guess was right, for the lady did enter the armory. I followed close at her heels.

As we entered the hall—the lady only a few paces in advance of me—her handkerchief fluttered from her side to the ground. Here was a chance for an introduction, perhaps. Eagerly I sprang forward, caught the fragile cambric from the floor, and then overtaking the lady, with my best bow presented it to her.

Sweetly and modestly she thanked me for the slight service; said, softly, that she had expected to meet her cousin, and could not guess what had become of him; murmured a few words about how unpleasant it was for a lady to be in the midst of such a crowd without a protector. With a boldness that astonished even myself, I instantly offered her my arm and begged her to allow me to be her escort. I told my name, and explained that I was a writer for the press. After a few seconds of hesitation, she accepted my offer.

fellow, with short black hair, and eyes as keen as a hawk's. He threw a rapid glance at Miss Mordaunt's face as he passed. It was quite an insolent look, and I felt half-tempted to call the fellow back and ask him what he meant by it.

I saw that Miss Mordaunt had noticed the fellow's glance, for her cheek grew a trifle pale, and some odd, ugly lines appeared about the corners of her mouth.

Then we got into the crowd again. Hardly had we entered it when a man stumbled violently against me.

"Git up an' git!" he cried in my ear, as I passed, and then I noticed that he, also, was dressed in a "pepper and salt" suit, and wore a white rose-bud in his button-hole! This was a most mysterious affair. Three men, all dressed like myself, all wearing a white rose-bud in their button-holes, had made it their business to run against me in the most outrageous manner, and whisper some cursed nonsense in my ear. If this was intended for a joke I felt that it was going altogether too far. For the second time I asked myself "What the d—n does it all mean?"

Then the crowd grew more dense. In fact, Miss Mordaunt and myself got pretty well squeezed, but finally we drew clear from the throng.

"I am tired. Will you escort me to the door?" asked my companion.

"Certainly," I replied, though sorry was I to part with her.

Then, as we made our way slowly to the door, a flashy-dressed fellow went rapidly past us.

"The 'cop's' tumbled to the little game; look out!" he said, in a guarded tone, as he went by.

Miss Mordaunt apparently did not hear this strange remark, for she took no notice of it. As for myself, I began to think that there must be something about my personal appearance, denoting that I was a member of the "dangerous classes"—as the papers style the thieves, etc., of New York—to have all these slang expressions addressed to me. "Oh, Mr. Penne!" cried the lady, suddenly, "will you do me a favor? I'm afraid of having my pocket picked in the crowd outside. Will you take my wallet—I have considerable money in it—and keep it for me until I get into the car?"

"Certainly," I replied.

Then she gave me her wallet. It was quite a large one and quite full. I noticed this as I slid it into my breast-pocket.

"Wait for me outside, please," she said. "I see a friend from our town yonder, that I wish to speak to." And then she glided away from me, apparently in a great hurry. But, she had not proceeded twenty steps when she was accosted by the short-haired fellow that had stared so insolently at her. A few words passed between them and then she followed him into an apartment adjoining the main hall.

I couldn't understand all this. I was lost in wonder, when I felt a heavy hand laid upon my shoulder. Turning, I beheld a keen-eyed, heavy-bearded man.

"I want you!" he said, laconically.

"The deuce you do!" I ejaculated, in astonishment.

"Yes, come," he added.

"Where?" I questioned, in growing astonishment.

"Follow me and you'll probably find out," he said, with a wink.

I could not gainsay the truth of this, so I followed meekly and without a word. I began to believe that by some mistake a lot of lunatics had visited the Bazaar in aid of "The Sheltering Arms," and that I had encountered the whole party.

The heavy-bearded man conducted me to the apartment that I had seen Miss Mordaunt and the little black-haired man enter.

In the apartment I found Miss Mordaunt, the black-haired man, the three individuals in "pepper and salt" suits and with white rose-buds, who had tumbled against me, and, lastly, a squad of police!

"Now, sir, who are you?" questioned the little man, curiously, after I had entered.

"By what right, sir, do you ask that question?" I asked, a little indignant at his tone.

"I'm Captain Cairnes of the Detective Police," cried the little man, sternly. "No fooling; answer my question."

Briefly I explained my name and business.

"Oh, gammon!" cried the detective, when I had finished; "you can't play that here. It's too thin! Your pals' here," and he pointed to the three in "pepper and salt," "have owned up that they came here on the 'pull' (that is, to pick pockets). Now make a clean breast of it."

I assured the officer that I had spoken nothing but the truth.

"And this woman—do you know her?" the detective asked.

"Miss Mordaunt—well—I have known her only about a half an hour, sir," I replied, in a mist as to what all this meant.

"You see, sir," said Miss Mordaunt, in her low, sweet voice, "the gentleman confirms my statement. I suppose, now, you are satisfied that I am innocent in regard to this matter, and that I can depart."

"Yes," said the detective, in a surly way.

Miss Mordaunt swept gracefully out of the room, giving a glance as she passed, as much as to say, "Remember."

"Well, I'm blessed if I ain't puzzled" cried the little detective, in a rage. "Ain't you a 'pal' of these men?" and he pointed to the three who sported the rose-buds.

"No, sir!" I cried, indignantly, shoving my hands into my pockets. "But, something in my right-hand pocket made me start as if my fingers had touched a snake coiled up there. From the pocket I drew a gold watch, then a silver one, and lastly a well-stuffed pocket-book. A cry of horror broke from my lips.

"I may as well own up," said the taller of the three in the "pepper and salt," "It's all a mistake. We thought this gent was a pardner of ours 'cos he was dressed just as we agreed to be, an' had the rose bud in his button-hole as a sign. So, when we lifted a 'ticker' we shoved it into this gent's pocket, thinkin' he was one on us. But I never tuck any thing!"

"Nor I!" chorused the other two.

"Oh, you're innocent ducks—you are!" said the detective, with a sneer; "but I havn't got the proofs; so 'levant'!"

The three did not let the grass grow under their feet, but left instantaneously.

"I'd give a trifle to know what she did with that pocket-book!" said the detective, in disgust.

A horrible suspicion seized upon me.

"Who is that Miss Mordaunt?" I cried.

"Kate Allen, the smartest pickpocket in New York," said the detective.

"Then this pocket-book, which she asked me to keep for her!" I said, producing it.

"Was stolen by her from Judge Daily, not ten minutes ago!"

I hastened from that Bazaar a sadder and wiser man than when I entered it. And I never look at a handsome woman in a street again, now, for fear that she may be a female pickpocket.

"And you have made up your mind to it?"

"I have, indeed!" The young man turned toward Van Vliet with an air of solemnity, such as he had not yet shown. "I know what you're thinking of, and am fully sensible of the danger you've hinted at. I don't believe there's any; but if there should be, better before marriage than after."

"True, Harry, true," assented his sage counselor.

With a proud, confident air, Henry Clinton rose to his feet, and commenced pacing the apartment—an elegant smoking-room, in one of the mansions of Madison Square, of which he was sole lord and master.

Jerome Van Vliet, his visitor, remained in his chair, tranquilly smoking a cigar, at the same time regarding his friend through the nicotian cloud with a glance still slightly skeptical.

Not of what his friend, in bosom confidence, had told him in regard to Ysabel Vallejo's love. He could not doubt that she loved him. It would have been strange if she had not; for, besides the advantages of family and fortune, he was one of the handsomest young men of the time. He was a type of the New Yorker, with that terseness of figure and absence of *gaucherie*—in short, a gracefulness, both of mind and person, for which the youth of New York city are justly celebrated.

But Van Vliet was some six years his senior, and had mixed more with the world, rather of fastness than fashion. This had produced the skepticism, with which his friend was accusing him. Clinton saw his own speech had not produced full effect, and continued:

"I know, Jerome, you think it a strange course for me to take. For all that, I'm determined on it; and I fancy you give me credit for sticking to a determination, when I've once made up my mind to it."

Van Vliet did give him credit. He knew that his friend had a will of his own. Who has not, owning a mansion in Madison Square, with a score or two of town lots fronting on the Avenue?

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rome, which I shall in due time disclose to you. If it succeed, I shall know whether Ysabel Vallejo be true. If not, she can never be my wife—she nor any other. I have given my heart once. It can not be bestowed again."

"Van Vliet!" he says, after emptying a second glass. "I'm going to ask a favor from you."

"It is granted before asking."

"Don't speak so fast, Jerome. It is a sacrifice, such as only brother can expect from brother."

"Pshaw, Harry! There are friendships quite as strong as that of brotherhood."

"I know it, Van Vliet; and for this reason I expect as much from you."

"Come to the point, Clinton! What is it you want me to do?"

"Before leaving home, I hinted of a plan I had, to test the truthfulness of Ysabel Vallejo."

"You did; and I think—excuse me for being frank with you—I think you are testing it to a somewhat severe tune?"

"Ah! Jerome, myself more than her. You know nothing of the pain this absence is costing me."

"I'd be stupid if I didn't. I know what it's costing me; a devilish dull time of it. You haven't been yourself, Harry Clinton, ever since we left New York; and if I'd known it before starting, I'm not certain I should have consented to forsake gay Gotham—much as I like yachting at your expense."

"Dear, dear, Jerome! I am aware how much my mood must have worried you. But it is of this I wish now to relieve you."

"Explain yourself, Harry!"

"I will, and in a word. I want you to go back to the United States."

"Come! that's funny; but it still needs the explanation."

"Simple enough, so far as your going is concerned. And so, too, is my plan, though its consequences concern the whole happiness of my life—may perhaps destroy it."

"I still wait for the *éclaircissement*."

"It is, then: *Ysabel must believe me dead*."

Van Vliet started, almost shattering his champagne glass.

"I expected you to be surprised," continued his friend, in a tone of unchanged calmness.

"But I am serious in what I propose; and with your assistance, intend carrying it out. You have promised—I know you will not fail me."

"But how do you mean to act? By practicing some deception?"

"A deception it is true; but meant for our mutual welfare—my own happiness for hers. She must think that I am dead; and here I have prepared what will make her think so."

Clinton handed a scrap of paper to his friend, on which were traced the words:

"A telegram received from Marseilles imports the painful intelligence that an American yacht, belonging to Henry Clinton, Esq., of New York, has been caught in a gale off the coast of Corsica, and gone to the bottom, with all hands aboard—the owner among the rest. Not a soul has been saved."

"And what am I to do with this?" asked Van Vliet, with eyes half starting from their sockets.

"After we have landed at Marseilles, which we shall do before sunset, you will take this on to Paris, and publish it in the *Galignani*."

"But your friends in New York—supposing they should see it?"

"It will make most of them very happy. I can't think of an exception. My nearest of kin is a cousin, who has a longing eye on those avenue lots of mine."

"But my friends. They know I'm along with you, and here it says there's not a soul saved!"

"I wish you to go on to New York, taking *Galignani* along with you. You can then satisfy your friends, that at least one very valuable life has been spared."

Van Vliet could not help laughing at the quiet joke.

"But," said he, "suppose *Galignani* won't put this 'drowned duck' in print?"

Clinton smiled in his turn.

"You, a New Yorker, to talk in that way! So well acquainted, too, with the tricks of journalism! I thought you knew better, Jerome! There is a talisman that will command the whole press of Paris. With it in one hand, and the drowned duck, as you call it, in the other, you need have no fear of approaching *Galignani*."

While speaking, the young yachtsman drew a purse from his pocket, and thrust it into the hands of his friend.

"What more?" asked Van Vliet.

"Get the paragraph printed; take the paper on with you to New York; and see that it is put into the hands of Ysabel Vallejo."

"It will be a shock to her."

"I hope it will. God forgive me for desiring it; but He knows my reason."

"If it is not unholy."

A young girl of Spanish face and features kneels before an image of the Virgin Mary; not in Spain, nor any other Catholic country; not in church or chancelled aisle, but on the carpet of a quiet drawing-room in the city of New York.

She is in prayer; and its purpose may be gathered from the words that flow fervently from her lips:

"Oh, Santissima Virgen! look down from heaven on high, and hear my prayer! Mother of God! I know thou givest ear to the humblest of thy petitioners. If it be sinful to approach thee with earthly thoughts, oh, pure Virgin, pardon me! for I am only of the earth. But thou who knowest all my desires, all the secret beatings of my heart, knowest also that my love for him is one and pure. Mother of God! guide him in his steps; guide him, for he is good; and so direct him in his wanderings, that



"Here shall I swear it!" (See "Love Test.")

A TALE OF A HEART TOO SORELY TRIED.

BY CAPTAIN MAYNE REID.

"Do what, Clinton?"

"Well, I can only tell you what I wouldn't do—make her my wife. I know you'll laugh, because you have a different idea of that relationship. To me it is so sacred, that I could not think of its occurring twice in a life. I've given up my whole heart to Ysabel Vallejo. If she were to die this minute, I could never love another. I must be sure that she loves me the same; and even if she knew me to be dead, that she will still remain true to the trust."

Harry Clinton spoke with a seriousness that forbade the doubting of his words. Van Vliet did not doubt them, for he knew that his friend was very different from the generality of "golden youth," and that among his many accomplishments, frivolity was not to be found.

"What! And the lady along with us? Of course you'll immediately get married?"

"No, Van Vliet. Our yacht tour first, and the honeymoon afterward."

"But you don't mean to be gone two years?"

"Two years, as originally intended."

"Henry Clinton, it's a delicate thing to give counsel on; but I think you believe me to be your friend."

"I know it, Jerome. If you have a thought upon your mind, out with it. Have no fear of offending me."

"Don't you think it a dangerous experiment, leaving her so long alone? Ysabel Vallejo is a very young girl. Besides, you must remember she has been brought up in Havana. They have strange ideas as well as customs, these Spanish people; and you know she's half Spanish, Harry."

"All the

he may return unharmed, unchanged, to one whose heart could not live without him. *Virgen Santissima!* grant this, my request, and let me ever pray for thine honor and glory, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!"

It was but part of the daily orison of the beautiful Ysabel Vallejo—offered up every morning since that on which Henry Clinton had seen her kneeling in the same place.

It was a morning in the sixth month of his absence, and once more upon her knees she had repeated it.

She had risen to her feet with the devout finale still lingering on her lips, when a ring at the street door announced the approach of a stranger. It was only a messenger with a packet; who, after handing it to the servant, went off without saying a word.

It was for Miss Ysabel Vallejo; and the servant, entering the room, delivered it into her hands.

It was simply a newspaper, on the wrapper of which was written her name and address. On tearing off the envelope she saw it was the *Galigrani*, of Paris—a journal known all the world over.

A paragraph, conspicuously marked between brackets of black ink, at once attracted her eye. After reading it, she gave utterance to a quick, sharp cry, and sunk fainting upon the floor!

Two men passing down the Fifth avenue, in the direction of Washington Square. They walk with nervous, hurried strides, and an air that speaks of some strongly-felt uneasiness. One of them, the younger, more especially shows this anxiety.

"You are sure," says he, addressing himself to the other, "you're sure they've gone away from New York?"

"Quite sure of it. At all events, they left Washington Square more than twelve months ago—just after I'd sent in the *Galigrani*. When I called to inquire about them, the old Spanish servant told me they had returned to Havana, where you know, they have a home. It was about that I wrote to you, addressing the letter to Hong Kong, as you directed, and another afterward to Melbourne, Australia. You say you received neither?"

"Neither. Not a word since you left me at Marseilles."

"Well; they may be back here now. We shall soon see. I know that they still keep the house."

The two men thus talking were Henry Clinton, just returned from his voyage around the world, and Jerome Van Vliet, who had gone less than half-way.

In five minutes more they rung the door-bell of a house on the west side of Washington Square, where for more than twelve months no guest had been seen to enter, nor any host to issue forth. It was inhabited only by servants—two of them—one an aged man, with a complexion of bronze, and a skin wrinkled like parchment. It was he who answered the bell.

"The Señor Vallejo?"

"Gone to Havana, señores. *Está quedando allá* (she is residing there). She left this city twelve months ago."

"And her daughter?"

"*Por cierto!* señores, she has taken the *nata* along with her."

"Do you expect them to be soon back here?"

"*Quién sabe?* They said nothing to me of when they would return. It is now winter; and not likely they'll come North before spring. *Aquí está mucho frío*, (here it is very cold)," added the ancient servant, with a shrug, as though he, too, would have preferred spending his winter in Havana.

Possibly Maude loved another? Certainly he did not. At any rate, neither adored the other with that ardor which engaged people of a week's time are accustomed of.

Notwithstanding, George Casselmaire firmly resolved that by no sign of his should Maude or her parents dream that he was not the worshiping lover he seemed. He did like his betrothed very, *very* much, and he could but admit that a lifetime with her would be a fortunate destiny for any man.

So the time went on, and Maude little knew the secret resolve of Casselmaire, while we must acknowledge that she cast many a wistful glance over the emerald meadow to the gleaming white mansion.

That mansion was the Archery, with its mystery—the one person of whom Maude so often thought was Frederic Trevlyn.

They had not met often—perhaps a half dozen times; but those brief moments had been of sufficient length to impress indelibly upon Maude's heart the handsome, serious dark eyes, the noble, manly bearing of the stern man who had regarded her so keenly.

But Frederic Trevlyn had never shown, by glance or token, that beautiful Maude Elverton was any more to him than a dozen other pretty girls. How well he must have preserved his love a secret the reader may guess.

A succession of brilliant parties, both indoors and out, had followed the arrival of George Casselmaire at the Grange. To these Fred Trevlyn was of course invited, and of course present.

On this evening there was an unusually pleasant gathering at "the Villa," the magnificent country-seat of old Mr. Joyce, whose two step-daughters did the honors of the house.

"*And I, too, señor*," said the guide, who appeared more intelligent than devout.

"Ah! indeed," said Clinton, who, having visited the conventional establishments of Europe, understood what was meant. "Poor girl, I pity her!"

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"*Caramba!* It's a sad thing for the poor *nina* to be shut up all her life within those gloomy walls, with nothing but praying to amuse her! So young, rich, and beautiful, too! After all, it's her own fault. She needn't, if she hadn't liked it. She's been a *novia* for twelve months under the white veil: and sure that was time enough for her to change her mind if she'd wished it? Well, I suppose the other thing was harder to bear than being a nun."

"What other thing?"

"*Ay Dios!* You haven't heard? All Havana knows the story. She was betrothed to a man who went away and left her, and then she had news of his being drowned, and after that she didn't care any more for the world. But, look in, señores! It will be worth your while. See! the grand procession is just coming up the aisle, and the new-made nun in the midst!"

"Her name?" gasped Henry Clinton, as following the guide they pressed forward into the vestibule.

"*Casilda!* what a fool I am! I forgot that, señores! How stupid of me not to think of it—that I was just taking you to the house of her mother, Señora Vallejo!

It is her daughter, the beautiful Ysabel, who has this day been dedicated. See, yonder she goes! They are now conducting her inside the cloisters!"

Perhaps never was more painful picture presented to the eyes of man than that now before Henry Clinton. He saw it but confusedly, with a dead weight upon his heart, and a burning in his brain. He saw the white, wan face of his beloved Ysabel, imbordered in black, with a spot of red upon her cheeks, produced by the excitement of the ceremony. He saw her look of lorn resignation as, surrounded by priests in their grand ceremonial robes, she was led away toward her cheerless cloister, never more to look upon the light of the outward world! It seemed like some innocent dove, clutched in the talons of vultures, and being borne off to their ill-odored eyrie!

Henry Clinton saw all this, but too late. She, who should have been his bride, was now the "bride of Christ!"

(Our next number will contain "The Key to the Convent," a sequel to the "Love Test.")

## The Shadowed Heart:

### OR, THE ILL-STARRING MARRIAGE.

BY MARY REED CROWELL  
AUTHOR OF THE "EYON MARK," "SCARLET CRESCENT," ETC., ETC.

#### CHAPTER IV.

##### FORBIDDEN SECRETS.

The days of that glorious sunshiny week were passing pleasantly away to the inmates of the Grange.

George Casselmaire had found his betrothed wife very beautiful, very charming, and very agreeable; yet there lacked something—a nameless something—that made him often wonder why he occasionally wanted to mount his fleetest horse and dash recklessly away over hillside and valley, with the feeling that he was not, after all, the happiest man alive, as he ought to be, with such a lovely *fiancee*.

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The music room was almost deserted, and the lamps were paled before the bright

rays of the harvest moon, that flooded the room with its subdued brilliance. Most of the guests were promenading in the garden; but, alone of the gay company, the star, Maude Elverton, had dexterously stolen to this quiet retreat.

She had been there but a few moments when a tall figure appeared in the doorway, who, on seeing her, immediately came forward to the balcony, where she sat.

"You are disposed to be cruel to-night, Miss Elverton."

Fred Trevlyn's voice made her shiver from head to foot, but she replied, gayly and unconcernedly:

"I do not comprehend; am I punishing myself by staying away from the remainder of the guests?"

Quite unconsciously she looked at him, with a sweet timidity that almost unnerved Fred Trevlyn.

"No. You are cruel to your friends, but kind, most kind to me."

A sudden fleet blush mounted her white forehead.

"Miss Elverton, do not misunderstand me when I say how delighted I am to enjoy this interview. I have very few friends, and when with them I can spend a brief moment and forget myself, my life, my past, present and future, I can not be too grateful."

He drew a chair opposite her, and leaned his head against the pillar. Maude glanced furtively at him, and for the first time since they had become acquainted she observed how deep an expression of sad disgust brooded on his handsome face—how dark a shadow rested on his brow—signs that too plainly told that he had in early life drunk to the bitterest dregs, perhaps, the cup of earth's sorrow. And in her heart a pity for him dawned—that dangerous sympathy so near akin to love. And while Maude was thinking of these things, her eyes downcast, her hands idling with a clematis spray, Frederic Trevlyn was eagerly, earnestly reading her sweet face, thinking how unspeakably, inexpressibly dear it was to him, already—how happy the man must be who might bask in the sunlight of her presence—how he would give untold gold might he but win her!

But he dare not think of this. He dare not give his wild imagination play; he who, in earlier, even boyhood days had counted his conquests by dozens, dared not dream even of beautiful Maude Elverton. She could never be aught to him—never, never! He was a doomed man; he was powerless to speak a word of love to her—to any woman!

She was the betrothed of another, so the gossips said, but that was not the barrier between them, for Frederic Trevlyn would never have allowed that to stand between him and his love.

But the wide, impassable gulf between them! He shivered and sickened as he thought that his own hands, ignorantly and innocently, years before, had made that gulf, and now no mortal might bridge it over!

The two sat, little dreaming of each other's thoughts, in the beautiful, tempting moonlight.

"Mr. Trevlyn, you of all men living, the owner of the enviable Archery, the delight of our county, young, fortunate, happy, should be the last to complain of fewness of friends."

"I fortunate? I happy? Surely you can not but be jesting, Miss Maude?"

"I never was more in earnest, Mr. Trevlyn; but I sincerely hope I have not offended you. You looked pained when I spoke."

"You never could offend me, Miss Elverton; and may I tell you that of the few friends, you are the nearest and dearest? Pardon me if I am hasty in saying this."

He leaned nearer her, and she met his earnest, almost impassioned glance.

"I am very glad you do like me," she replied, ingenuously, "and if, in my capacity of friend, I can serve you or alleviate the dark fate you persist in clinging to as inevitable, you must allow me. Will you promise?"

She extended her hand, and he grasped it eagerly, bending to kiss it as he felt prompted to do; but, a strong resolve saved him, and pressing it kindly, let go his hold upon it.

Little did she dream the whirlwind her innocent words had caused.

Poor Fred Trevlyn! how his aching heart throbbed with joy as he had held her hand that brief moment—throbbed with a hopeless joy, insane and intoxicating.

Poor Maude! her heart bounded with a wild, uncontrollable bliss, for she imagined perhaps he loved her! perhaps he would love, if he did not yet!

This was the wanting key-note that George Casselmaire had failed to discover between himself and Maude; this, that was perfectly attuned between Maude and Frederic Trevlyn.

Alas! the room was filling again with the merry couples, eager for the dance, and Trevlyn led Maude to the floor for the polka redowa. It seemed to them both the perfection of joy: to Maude, who scarcely was able to analyze these new feelings, a new, wild, thrilling joy came when Fred Trevlyn held her so closely to his throbbing heart, and she knew it must be love that induced the new emotion.

And he? it was happiness for a time to hang upon her smiles—to watch the lights and shades of her beautiful face—to look into her clear, truthful eyes with his searching

ing, impassioned glance. Bliss too perfect for expression, excepting the thought that it must all end some time, if not that hour, when prudence bade him flee from the temptation.

The music died away, and he and Maude silently went from the room to the balcony again, where they were alone.

Neither spoke; then, with a mighty impulse, he stooped and kissed her forehead.

"Mr. Trevlyn, sir, you forget I am to be George Casselmaire's wife!" and even as she spoke, a great, wild heart-throb leaped to her voice.

"Forgive me. I did know it—I do know it! But I have so few joys, so few comforts, and we are to be friends."

He held out his hands for the pardon he craved. And Maude? she laid her tiny hands within them, and granted the forgiveness.

#### CHAPTER V.

##### A FLASH OF LIGHT.

THE ball at the Villa seemed to have been a gayety of Cupid's own making.

The host, old, silly Andrew Joyce, was in raptures over the suddenly appreciated charms of his neighbor Tressel's daughter; while Ida herself loved, hopelessly in secret, a far different personage.

Maude Elverton had discovered that, though her hand had been formally bestowed upon George Casselmaire, her affections were centered on the peculiarly eccentric owner of the Archery, thus leaving George entirely unprovided for. Yet the goddess did not thus neglect one of her prime favorites; for that very day George Casselmaire met his destiny.

A riding-party of Maude and Trevlyn, Casselmaire and the elder Miss Joyce had gone for a pleasure tour far off among the hills. In returning they had come past the Archery, thence toward the Grange. This road, the reader remembers, led directly by Rose Cottage, and at that humble, lovely spot he first saw sweet Ida Tressel. Since the morning previous, when her father had commanded her to receive Mr. Joyce as an accepted lover, not a word relative to the subject had passed between them. It was now Saturday, and on the morrow Andrew Joyce was to come to hear his fate; a decision he vainly imagined could not otherwise than favorable, but which Ida remained silent upon.

It was a riding-party of Maude and Trevlyn, Casselmaire and the elder Miss Joyce had gone for a pleasure tour far off among the hills. In returning they had come past the Archery, thence toward the Grange. This road, the reader remembers, led directly by Rose Cottage, and at that humble, lovely spot he first saw sweet Ida Tressel. Since the morning previous, when her father had commanded her to receive Mr. Joyce as an accepted lover, not a word relative to the subject had passed between them. It was now Saturday, and on the morrow Andrew Joyce was to come to hear his fate; a decision he vainly imagined could not otherwise than favorable, but which Ida remained silent upon.

## Our Ballads.

[We propose to award a corner in our paper to original ballads, and will be happy to receive from our friends contributions of that class. Some of the most charming poems in the language are ballads. We hope our contributors having a talent for this species of composition, will let us hear from them.]

## HANNIBAL'S OATH.

BY CAPT. CHARLES HOWARD.

To the altar of Baal old Hamilcar came,  
His long hair the hue of the foam,  
For in his bosom there burned the wild fierce  
flame  
Of hate, for the city of Rome.

Carthage bleeds beneath Roman rods;  
Thus the gray-haired warrior cried;

"We have called upon the gods;

But they succor have denied."

Now, oh Baal, I bring to thee,  
This, my youngest, dearest son;  
He who shall his country free,  
Ere his race of life is run."

Then he turned unto his child,  
And of Rome's oppression spoke,  
Till the youth's calm look grew wild,  
And apart the red lips broke:

"Father, wait till I grow tall,  
Wait till I can armies lead;  
Then the knights of Rome shall fall,  
Then the best of Rome shall bleed."

Kneel, my boy, and raise thy hand,  
As thou oft hast done at home;  
Swear, as thou dost love thy land,  
Eternal enmity to Rome.

"Swear, my boy, that thou wilt give  
Always aid to oppressed lands;  
That thou wilt never fall alone;  
A prisoner, into Roman hands."

Dropped the boy upon the stones,  
And raised—not one hand—but both,  
While his sire, in thunderous oath,  
Shouted forth the fearful oath:

Backward shrink the priest of Baal,  
When he heard Hamilcar's words;  
And his wrinkled face grew pale,  
For their venom pierced like swords.

Athwari the sky the lightning flashed  
It forked and lurid beams afar;  
Against the rocks the billows dashed,  
With sounds—the harbingers of war.

"Father, I have sworn to hate  
Rome, her laws, her knights, her kings;  
Them I now abominate,  
Yea, above all earthly things."

Thus the Carthaginian boy  
Spoke, as to his feet he rose;  
Priest and parent smiled for joy—  
They the Roman's deadliest foes.

As the instrums came and waned,  
Hannibal to manhood grew;  
Mighty victories he gained,  
And Rome's best and greatest slew.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now he is a warrior gray,  
And his strength begins to fail;  
Still he courts the battle-fray,  
He has not forgotten Baal.

Yonder, where the flag of Rome  
Flies above the dying dead,  
Hannibal is striking home;  
Now he cleaves a General's head.

Carthage's flags are lowered to Rome,  
See! the warrior's cheeks grow pale;  
He sinks, the poison has struck home;  
He has kept the oath of Baal.

## Cruiser Crusoe:

## LIFE ON A TROPIC ISLE.

BY LAFAYETTE LAFOREST.

NUMBER THIRTEEN.

Of course we did not speak. We neither understood a word of the other's language; at least I never thought of trying, but I held her hand in mine, and saw that she was pleased at my attention. Never did man feel more valiant or more timorous. My determination was firm to fight the whole tribe, while a great dread was on my soul, lest I should lose that which would make life at least endurable in that desolate place.

When I was cast away, female society was dear to me in the extreme, but it never entered my mind to believe that the absence of it would be felt by any one so acutely as it was by me. The longing was irrepressible, and now that I had found such a companion, my life appeared to have become more valuable.

We moved for a considerable time at a rapid pace, until, to my great surprise, I found we must have turned the wrong way, as the distant boom of the surf could be distinctly heard. Then the sky, before so clear and bright, became suddenly overcast. It was clear that we were about to have a storm, if not a tornado. Looking quickly round, a clump of thick vines falling from a baobab tree, seemed to promise ample shelter, and beneath this we hastily crept.

It was a very dangerous thing to do, as it thundered and lightened violently soon after, and rained as it only can rain, in the tropics. But I thought not of danger. My new-found companion was by my side, and, wholly occupied by her, the danger did not alarm me. Every now and then, as the lightning was more than usually vivid, I saw her bright little eyes fixed upon me, with a curious expression—half wonder, half doubt. But, by signs and gentle caresses, I endeavored to reassure her; and when the storm was over, which it was in less than an hour, she was sleeping soundly, with her head upon my shoulder, and my arm supporting her.

As soon as it was thoroughly light, she awoke and looked round timidly, while a rosy hue burst forth upon her cheek. She then hastily rose and listened. After a moment, she lay down with her ear to the ground, and making signs to me, jumped up and fled. The savages were clearly on our track. We were now crossing a little prairie, about a mile long by half a mile wide, quite clear, and covered by luxuriant grass,

the abode of snakes, no doubt. But no thought of the beasts or the reptiles of the field moved us, as we made for the skirts of trees.

Passing through these, we soon saw that we were close to a somewhat remarkable river. It had no banks, but the mangroves grew down into the water, while for a hundred feet on each side was a huge unhealthy and unpleasant swamp, the odor from which was exceedingly bad. But there was no time for hesitation. The girl made signs that the savages were quickly coming up, and it was not for me to dispute her experience. With an elasticity of step which was marvelous for one so frail and young, she leaped on to some huge stumps of trees, and darted from root to root with a light and even bound I could scarcely imitate.

She was guide now. Every two minutes she paused, listened again, and then, if she noticed a dead leaf had been trod on, or that our feet had made a mark on the decayed wood, paused to efface it. Very soon we were close to the river, into the turbid and muddy water of which she leaped unhesitatingly. I followed, wading a little above my knees, and hurrying so rapidly that I scarcely understood her motion. It was to turn a bend in the river before the savages came up.

The whole shore, several mud islands, and the waters, were alive with birds. Sometimes a flock of pelicans swam by, giving us a wide berth, while at others, a long string of flamingoes stretched along the muddy shore, looking like a line of fire in the morning sun. There were herons, too, and cranes and gulls. But these occupied me little, as I had eyes only for the graceful form of my Indian girl, while she was intent on her duties as leader. Down the stream we moved, turning back every moment to look over our shoulders, in fear of pursuit. For some time we saw nothing of the *Fans*, for such, I afterward found, was the name of the tribe. Then, however, the girl clutched me by the arm just as a shrill cry of triumph warned me that we were discovered.

Quick as thought she drew me beneath the roots of a mangrove up to our waists in slimy mud. Then she took a log that was floating on the water, but attached to the roots by some creeping plants, which, having severed, she thrust it out into the stream. For a moment I did not understand her meaning, but when I saw that her quick eye had noticed a branch dipping in the water, that drew up precisely the same mud and bubbles that our steps did, I comprehended the keen wit of the Indian girl.

Ten minutes passed, during which we very cautiously drew ourselves back in the swamp, the abode of alligators and snakes, until we were in a dark and noisome recess, perfectly pestilential in its odors. But to me it was delightful, as in my enthusiasm at her ready wit, I clasped her in my arms and even received from the dear and affectionate creature a most expressive kiss. But this was no time for ecstasies, as we could now hear the guttural cries of the *cannibals* at no great distance.

Then we saw a body of them pass. They had secured a huge log on which some twenty of them sat astride, using sticks for paddles. About four guided the clumsy construction, which, however, moved rapidly enough with the tide, while the rest, armed with spears, bows and war-hatchets—terrible weapons—peered about in search of the fugitive, or rather fugitives, for doubtless the footmarks had betrayed my presence.

Our hole, however, sheltered us, and I was about to step out and look after them, when the girl checked me. She knew the cunning of these ferocious savages (who cook and eat human flesh, without compunction) better than I did. The raft was only a blind, for soon there appeared several scattered savages peering at both shores, sounding the roofed and arched roots of the mangroves with their lances, and examining every possible hiding-place with keen and avid scrutiny.

I made ready. My double-barreled gun was cocked, my pistols were in my belt out of the reach of the water, and with these I felt a match for half-a-dozen. They all carried spears, huge shields of buffalo-hide, and tomahawks, slung in their belts about the extent of their garb. They passed in dozens close to us, but the mangrove roots on the side of the water, appeared too low, probably, for the entrance to a hiding-place.

Then there was a great stillness in the air, and I thought all was over. Still I paused, and allowed some minutes to elapse ere venturing to sally forth. It appeared, then, well that I did so, for the next instant I saw at some distance from the opening a very tall and grizzled-looking old warrior, who was slowly and carefully examining every faintest sign by which to trace us. Suddenly I saw an infernal grin on his face as he looked at our opening, toward which he the next instant made his way. By the way that he poised his spear it was clear he meant mischief, so, taking deliberate aim, I fired.

I felt my companion shudder intensely—in her fright she had clung to me—but when the smoke cleared away, the *fan* warrior was nowhere to be seen. Drawing my half-fainting companion into the open air, I retreated through the swamp until we stood once more on dry land. I could see some high rocks in the distance, and toward these directed my way, after loading my gun, in the presence of the girl, who, however, to

my utter amazement, appeared quite familiar with the process.

Then we started in the direction of some huge boulders, on an elevated plateau, some of them thirty or forty feet high by one hundred long.

Above there were some steep rocks, from which depended the India-rubber vine, from which—and not from a tree—the caoutchouc of commerce is obtained in Africa. It is a vine of immense length, with singularly few leaves, and those only at the end. These leaves are broad, dark green, and lance-shaped. The bark is rough, and a brownish hue, while a large vine is often five inches in diameter at the base.

Toward this part of the rocks I went, and having reached their foot, made signs to Plabina—such was the girl's name—that I would ascend. She looked wistfully up, and shook her head. Then I recollect I showed her, and then hurriedly began to climb. The vines were so thickly intertwined, that it was no easy task.

Then I heard a shriek which rung to the very welkin, followed by an angry and savage cry, like nothing I had ever heard before.

I bent over just in time to behold Plabina caught in the arms of a huge being whose features I could not distinguish. Then having secured its prize, it fled precipitately.

The girl was in the hands of the terrible and ferocious being whom some have dared to compare with man. She had been carried off by a gorilla.

I descended from my eminence in utter horror of spirit, and, just as I alighted on the ground below, saw some twenty of the *Fan* savages debouch upon the plain. They, too, had seen the rapt, and instantly gave chase.

With a weary, almost broken heart, I followed.

I had read in story books of monkeys stealing away girls and then returning them home unscathed, but I had no such belief in the amenity of the gorilla, which was, without exception, the most hideous and unsightly monster which ever had crossed my path. Its immense and fearful muscular power was something awful, it carrying the unfortunate girl as I should have carried an infant.

My feelings of grief and rage were such as almost to put me beside myself. I, however, hurried on the track of the savages in a state of double terror. It was very probable that they would kill the beast, but in what way could this advantage me? They would become the possessors of the person of the rescued captive, and thus in either way she was lost to me.

The track, or trail, of the *Fan* Indians was easily followed, and presently some drops of blood indicated that, by means of their bows and arrows or spears, they had wounded the animal. Then I heard, first, a most singular and awful noise. It began with a sharp bark, like that of an angry dog, then glided into a deep bass growl, not at all unlike the roll of very distant thunder, followed by a great shout, as of rejoicing, which was again succeeded by complete silence. Again hurrying on, the explanation of this rejoicing was quickly found.

On a bank, underneath a tree, was the gorilla, riddled with arrows and spears, which he was endeavoring to tear forth. But he was fast going. Death had set its seal upon him, and when I came close up he could only gnash his teeth and make a faint, mean of mingled ferocity and anguish.

Despite my own sorrow and affliction, I stood still a moment to gaze with affright, mingled with admiration at this wonderful animal. This one was quite six feet high, with an immense body, a vast chest, great muscular arms, ferociously glowing, large, deep-gray eyes, and a hellish expression of countenance, that reminded me of some terrible nightmare vision.

The beast, weak and ill as it was, glared at me from beneath the penthouse of its eyes with intense ferocity; its eyes flashed and rolled, while its huge and powerful fangs were clenched in impotent rage. I believe no man in his sober senses, gazing at that fearful dream-like creature—at that hideous caricature of humanity—could have ventured to compare it to the noblest and greatest of God's works.

Its four paws, its fearful ugliness, its howl, were of the very lowest order of the brute creation. It may suit the purpose of men who wish to make out that we are mere animals, with nothing but a superior instinct, to compare these "man-like apes" to human beings, but during my residence on the island, though every kind of African monkey passed in review before me, they were, though artful, cunning, crafty, and clever, very inferior in so-called intellect, to the dog, the horse, and elephant.

But enough of this beast. The one before me was fast sinking, and I had a great mind to finish its sufferings by one shot in its breast, when recollection came to me, and the danger of such a proceeding was made manifest. Turning away, then, from the horrible sight, I again looked down upon the ground in search of the trail of the savages. In the kind of open clearing, where the huge ape had fallen a victim to its rapacity and greediness, the mark of their steps was obvious; and, determined now more than ever to brave any danger rather than lose Plabina, I again, after seeing with fearful care to the priming of my gun, hurried on my way, though scarcely hoping for an advantageous result.

The forest was, for a little way, dark and almost impenetrable, so that my movements were very slow, until suddenly the undergrowth disappeared, and once more the savages were in sight. They had halted in a small circular spot quite devoid of vegetation. The ground was bare rock, while all around were huge trees with waving and projecting branches, whence depended vast curling vines, that in many cases hung to the ground.

Tied to a small tree, was the Indian girl. She was weeping. They had fastened her wrists behind her back and herself to the sapling, while they were seated round in a circle debating earnestly upon some question of vital interest. That it regarded the girl I could tell from her frightened and averted looks, and those glances which she cast every now and then toward heaven, as if appealing to it for mercy. In the hour of tribulation and of trouble, the wildest nature learns to appeal to One who alone can guard and save.

The debate was very hot. Some were for one thing, some for another, but all pointed toward the girl. Then I saw a shadow of nameless horror fall upon the countenance of the girl, who, having been long a prisoner with some of the tribe, had learned their hideous and guttural language. A terrible and fearful dread went to my heart. These wretches, who are all cannibals, and who delight in nothing so much as in human flesh, were about to immolate the poor trembling victim and eat her.

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My feelings of grief and rage were such as almost to put me beside myself. I, however, hurried on the track of the savages in a state of double terror. It was very probable that they would kill the beast, but in what way could this advantage me?

The girl hung almost dead from the tree. The savage stepped back to make a kind of spring; his breast was full in view. Without caring for, or reflecting on the consequences, I fired both barrels.

## The Wrecker's Secret.

A TALE OF THE JERSEY BEACH.

BY C. DUNNING CLARK.

A BEACH like that which Tennyson describes in Enoch Arden, where long syne Philip Ray and he, with Annie, roamed about the shore where

"Long lines of cliff breaking had left a chasm,  
And in that chasm were foam and yellow sand."

Such scenes as this are common down on the Jersey shore, where the blackened ribs of shipping, wrecked long ago, peer out from the snowy sand. Sea-gulls sit and wheel in the sun above the long blue roll of the sea, or lie floating upon the glassy surface. In the distance, against the summer sky, white-winged ships go sailing by, bound East and South and North. Closer in shore a Southern-bound steamer, with its freight of human souls, goes sweeping by, two black columns of smoke rising slowly and diffusing itself in the air. A scene of calm and quiet beauty worthy an immortal pencil.

Along that shore live a strange race of men, at whom it has been the habit through long years to point the finger; as men who would stoop to any crime for gain. Men who snatch their hard-earned bread from the treacherous sea, at a price sometimes fearful to the wives and mothers, who sit by desolate fires, and hear, far off, the rush and roar of the breakers, and know that those they love are out at sea, at the mercy of the mighty waves. Let those who sleep soft and warm, who have never struggled to keep the wolf from the door, or know the hard uses of poverty, be the last to sneer at such as these. Rough and rude they are, but I have seen in them the stuff of which we mold our best and bravest.

Hard men there are, to be sure, who live among them and would not hesitate at crime, but the *wrath* of the *Scoundrel*!

"Ay, scoundrel; any man is a scoundrel who takes the bread out of an honest man's mouth, who 'arms it from the sea. Don't I know you, Newcomb? Don't I know that you have foul ag'in' the honest gains of the wreckers? Let me tell you to look out, for the boys won't stand no nonsense, they won't."

"Drag you down, Nattie!"

"There; I think you love me as you say, but there is a secret which hangs about my life and makes it dark; a secret which is only in the possession of Jasper Derwent, who—"

"What of Jasper Derwent?" said a harsh voice near at hand, and a burly, dark-brown man rose from his seat behind a mass of brown rocks, and strode toward them.

"Home with you, Nattie, and as you wish to avoid my curse, never let me see you speaking

ness, though not in honest business. I have put down decoys and false lights upon this beach, for I know that the Northern Star would never have gone ashore, but for you," said Jasper. "I could not save them. Tom and Jim would have had my life if I tried, and it was as much as I could do to save the child. I've been a villain, I allow, but no man kin say I did not love the little gal and give her a father's care. See; I sent her to that school in Philadelphia, and give her an education. Don't turn ag'in me, Nattie; I couldn't bar it."

"Murderer!" gasped Nattie.

A wild light came into the eyes of Derwent, but he kept his seat, though his hands stole into the folds of his Guernsey shirt, while the old woman went on.

"You and your wife were kind to her; and for that reason, because I was poor, I left her with you. Her parents are dead; all she had on earth were her father and mother, whom I served, and whom you slew, as certainly as if you had plunged a knife into their hearts. But, I have watched her; and now, when she needs help, when you begin to act the tyrant, I come to you and say, give her to Charles Newcomb, give up the jewels you stole from the dead body of her father, and then leave America forever!"

"Go away before I do you an injury, you ruffian!" said the young man.

"Would you strike an old woman?" said Jasper.

"Ha! ha! ha!" she cried.

"Jasper Derwent may well turn pale when he sees a face which he thought had been buried many years in the sands of the Jersey shore. Go, back to your home, coward that you are, and wait for me there!"

Derwent slunk away with a murderous light in his eye, and left the two together. The old woman looked admiringly at the stalwart frame and handsome face of the young sailor before she spoke.

"I heard what you said to Jasper Derwent," she said, slowly.

"I was following him—for he has got an account to settle with me—when I heard you talking. You say that you love Nattie Derwent, and there isn't a brighter or prettier face along the shore. What would you give the woman that would make Jasper Derwent consent to give her to you?"

"Give her? Any thing—every thing?"

"I wouldn't ask so much as that. What I'd want would be to live somewhere near her, to see her sometimes, and to speak with her, and that she should not be ashamed of me because I am old and infirm. Do you think she would promise that?"

"Nattie never would be ashamed of a friend, whatever her station," replied Newcomb.

"I guess you are right in that. Come closer to me and I will tell you what to do," said the old dame, slowly.

They remained for some moments in close consultation, and then separated, the old lady taking her way down the beach upon the track of Derwent. He lived in a low-brown hut not far from the beach. Wrecking boats, nets, and all the paraphernalia of sea life were hauled up on the beach close at hand. Derwent stood in the door looking at her with a lowering eye.

"You are comin' in, ain't ye?" he said.

"Yes, Jasper, I am coming in," she answered, calmly.

"Don't look so black at me, for it won't help you, for the time is come to end your wickedness."

She followed him in, and Nattie looked up in some surprise and hastened to give the visitor a chair upon one side of the great fireplace, over which a kettle was simmering. The room was small, and lumbered with the various articles of Derwent's craft. A miniature ship was on the rough mantel over the fireplace; a coil of rope in a corner, under a huge waterproof cloak; a pair of rubber boots upon the other side of the fireplace.

"Shall the gal go, old lady?" said Derwent, hoarsely, while filling his pipe with trembling hands.

"No!" replied the woman, looking abidingly at the room.

"A strange life she must have had here with only you for a companion. Come nearer, little girl, for I am going to tell a story you ought to hear."

Nattie came and leaned upon the mantel, looking down at the old woman with wondering eyes.

"Fourteen years ago a schooner came ashore on the beach yonder," said the woman, and all on board perished, so the papers said.

The most of the wreckers were away from home, but there were here, Jasper Derwent, James Nailor, and Tom Carton. Among those who were washed ashore that night was a woman with a child in her arms; a lady richly dressed; and a man, with life yet in him. A little care would have saved all three, but those three merciless ruffians left all except the child upon the beach, and when morning came, there lay, stiff and cold upon the shining sand, the man and his wife. Only the woman who had held the child was gone. Whether the waves had washed her off again and carried her further down the beach, they did not know or care. That woman was myself."

"Curse you, oh curse you!" said Derwent, with eyes half starting from his

head, stared hard at the old woman as she spoke.

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would have had my life if I tried, and it

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"Don't look so black at me, for it won't help you, for the time is come to end your wickedness."

She followed him in, and Nattie looked up in some surprise and hastened to give the visitor a chair upon one side of the great fireplace, over which a kettle was simmering. The room was small, and lumbered with the various articles of Derwent's craft. A miniature ship was on the rough mantel over the fireplace; a coil of rope in a corner, under a huge waterproof cloak; a pair of rubber boots upon the other side of the fireplace.

"Shall the gal go, old lady?" said Derwent, hoarsely, while filling his pipe with trembling hands.

"No!" replied the woman, looking abidingly at the room.

"A strange life she must have had here with only you for a companion. Come nearer, little girl, for I am going to tell a story you ought to hear."

Nattie came and leaned upon the mantel, looking down at the old woman with wondering eyes.

"Fourteen years ago a schooner came ashore on the beach yonder," said the woman, and all on board perished, so the papers said.

The most of the wreckers were away from home, but there were here, Jasper Derwent, James Nailor, and Tom Carton. Among those who were washed ashore that night was a woman with a child in her arms; a lady richly dressed; and a man, with life yet in him. A little care would have saved all three, but those three merciless ruffians left all except the child upon the beach, and when morning came, there lay, stiff and cold upon the shining sand, the man and his wife. Only the woman who had held the child was gone. Whether the waves had washed her off again and carried her further down the beach, they did not know or care. That woman was myself."

"Curse you, oh curse you!" said Derwent, with eyes half starting from his

head, stared hard at the old woman as she spoke.

"I couldn't save them. Tom and Jim

would have had my life if I tried, and it

was as much as I could do to save the

child. I've been a villain, I allow, but no

man kin say I did not love the little gal

and give her a father's care. See; I sent

her to that school in Philadelphia, and give

her an education. Don't turn ag'in me, Nattie; I couldn't bar it."

"Murderer!" gasped Nattie.

A wild light came into the eyes of Derwent, but he kept his seat, though his hands stole into the folds of his Guernsey shirt, while the old woman went on.

"You and your wife were kind to her;

and for that reason, because I was poor, I left her with you. Her parents are dead;

all she had on earth were her father and mother, whom I served, and whom you slew,

as certainly as if you had plunged a

knife into their hearts. But, I have watched

her; and now, when she needs help, when

you begin to act the tyrant, I come to you

and say, give her to Charles Newcomb,

give up the jewels you stole from the dead

body of her father, and then leave America

forever!"

"Go away before I do you an injury, you ruffian!" said the young man.

"Would you strike an old woman?" said Jasper.

"Ha! ha! ha!" she cried.

"Jasper Derwent may well turn pale when he sees a face which he thought had been buried many years in the sands of the Jersey shore. Go, back to your home, coward that you are, and wait for me there!"

Derwent slunk away with a murderous light in his eye, and left the two together.

The old woman looked admiringly at the stalwart frame and handsome face of the young sailor before she spoke.

"I heard what you said to Jasper Derwent," she said, slowly.

"I was following him—for he has got an account to settle with me—when I heard you talking. You say that you love Nattie Derwent, and there isn't a brighter or prettier face along the shore. What would you give the woman that would make Jasper Derwent consent to give her to you?"

"Give her? Any thing—every thing?"

"I wouldn't ask so much as that. What I'd want would be to live somewhere near her, to see her sometimes, and to speak with her, and that she should not be ashamed of me because I am old and infirm. Do you think she would promise that?"

"Nattie never would be ashamed of a friend, whatever her station," replied Newcomb.

"I guess you are right in that. Come closer to me and I will tell you what to do," said the old dame, slowly.

They remained for some moments in close consultation, and then separated, the old lady taking her way down the beach upon the track of Derwent. He lived in a low-brown hut not far from the beach. Wrecking boats, nets, and all the paraphernalia of sea life were hauled up on the beach close at hand. Derwent stood in the door looking at her with a lowering eye.

"You are comin' in, ain't ye?" he said.

"Yes, Jasper, I am coming in," she answered, calmly.

"Don't look so black at me, for it won't help you, for the time is come to end your wickedness."

She followed him in, and Nattie looked up in some surprise and hastened to give the visitor a chair upon one side of the great fireplace, over which a kettle was simmering. The room was small, and lumbered with the various articles of Derwent's craft. A miniature ship was on the rough mantel over the fireplace; a coil of rope in a corner, under a huge waterproof cloak; a pair of rubber boots upon the other side of the fireplace.

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